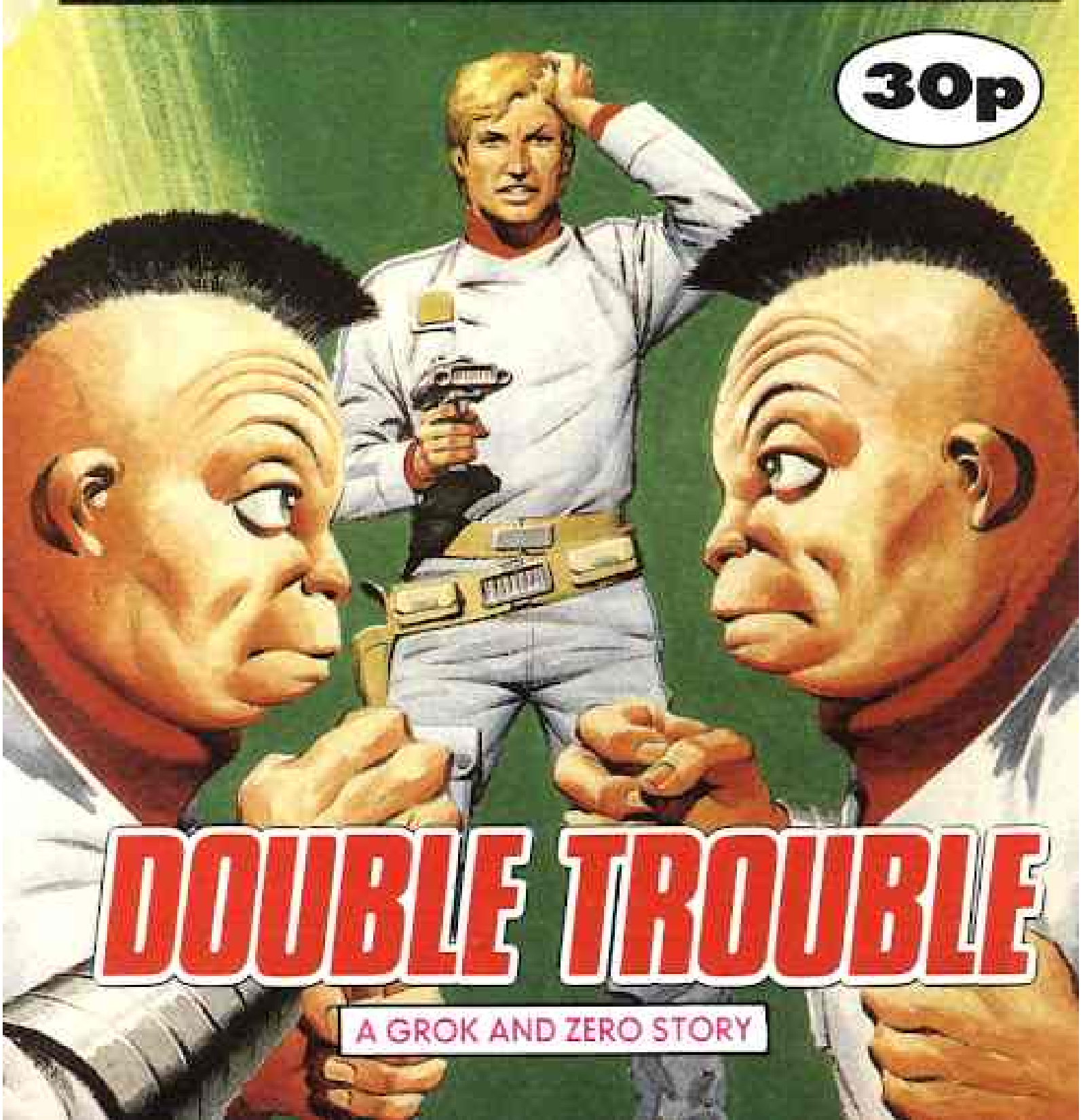
STARBLAZER

FANTASY FICTION IN PICTURES No. 244

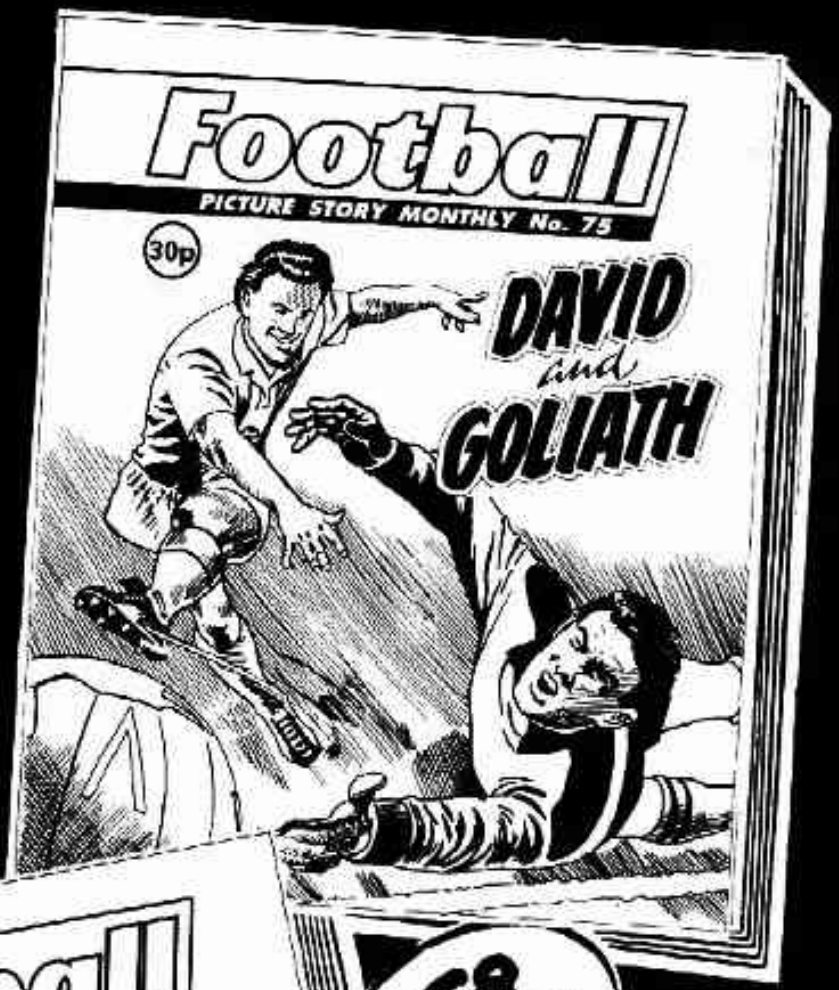
30p

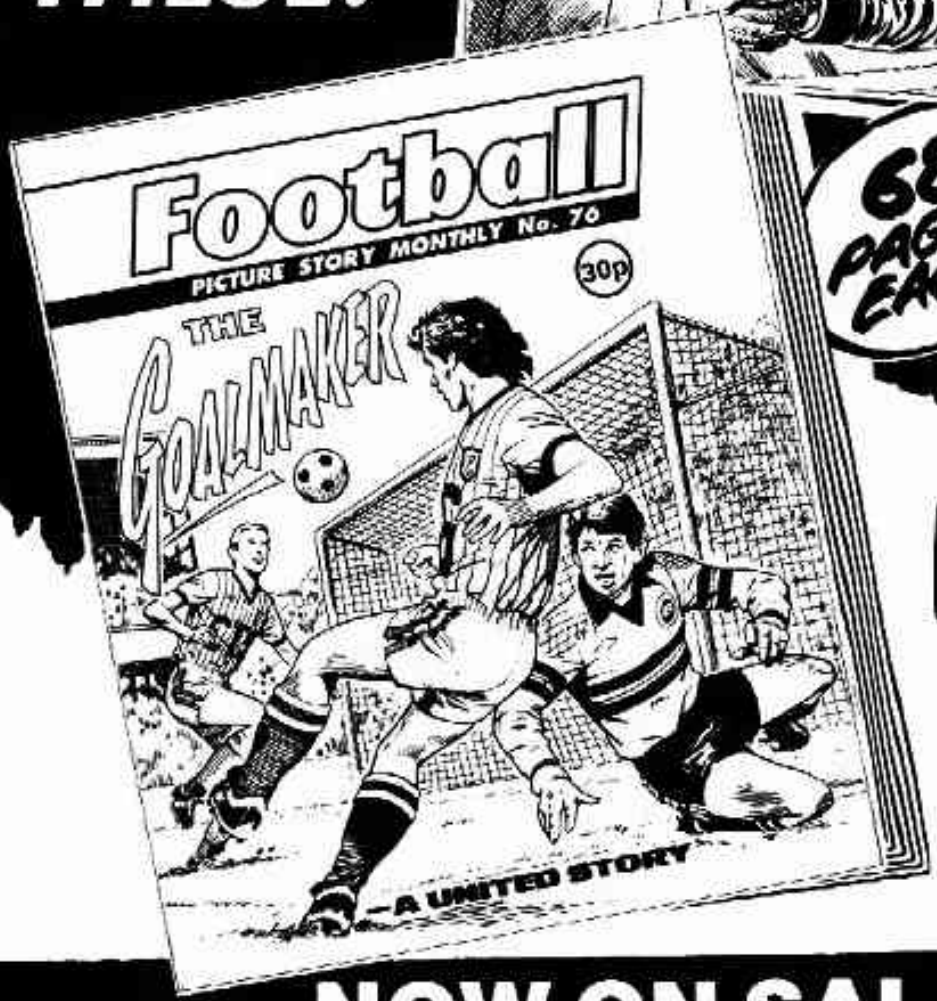


DOUBLE TROUBLE

A GROK AND ZERO STORY

IF YOU'RE A FOOTBALL FAN, YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS THESE!

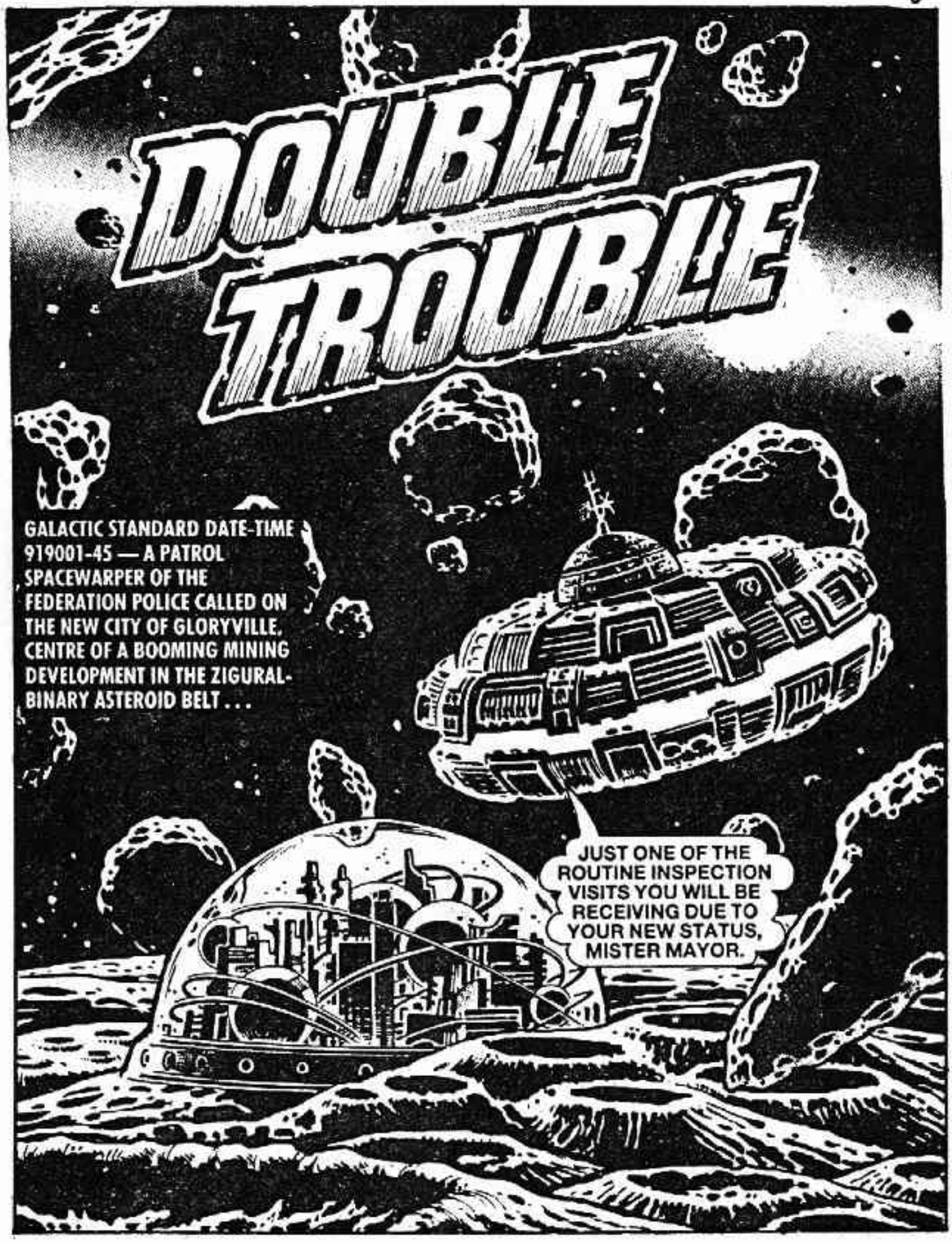




68 PAGES EACH

FOOTBALL LIBRARIES Nos. 75-76

NOW ON SALE 30p

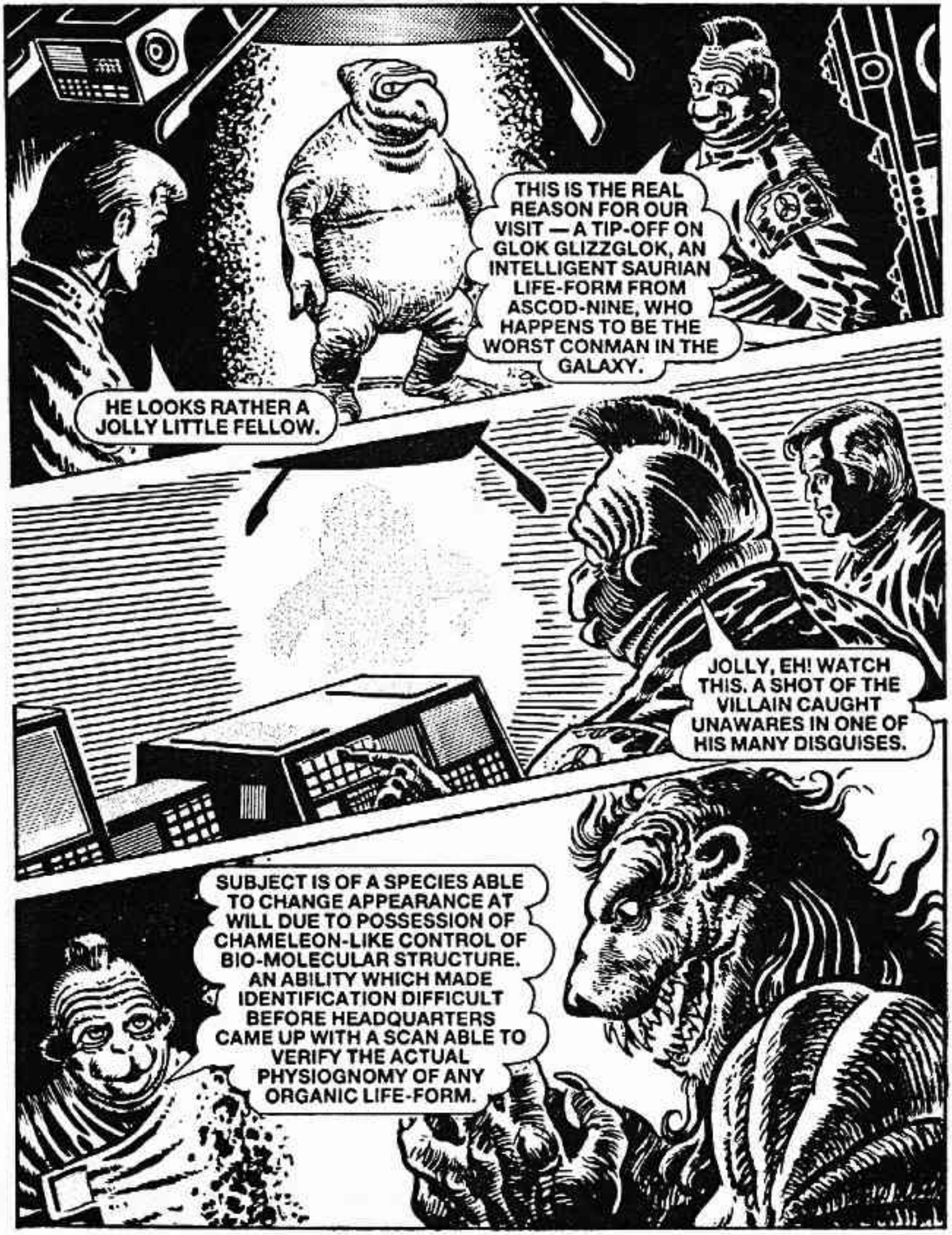

DOUBLE TROUBLE
GALACTIC STANDARD DATE-TIME 919001-45 — A PATROL SPACEWARPER OF THE FEDERATION POLICE CALLED ON THE NEW CITY OF GLORYVILLE, CENTRE OF A BOOMING MINING DEVELOPMENT IN THE ZIGURAL-BINARY ASTEROID BELT . . .
JUST ONE OF THE ROUTINE INSPECTION VISITS YOU WILL BE RECEIVING DUE TO YOUR NEW STATUS, MISTER MAYOR.

YOU FUZZ — ER, GENTLEMEN ARE MOST WELCOME, OFFICER GROK. THE WILD DAYS OF THE FRONTIER ARE NOW BEHIND US. WE ARE CONSTRUCTING SUCH CIVILISED AMENITIES AS HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS — EVEN A NEW POLICE STATION.

SHIP, READY THE SHUTTLE FOR LANDING — AND WHERE IS OFFICER ZERO?
ZERO IS IN HIS QUARTERS. HIS REASON FOR ABSENCE I DO NOT COMPUTE.

WELL AT LEAST THIS IS MY LAST TRIP WITH THAT CAPELLAN KNUCKLEHEAD. THE SUPER CAN'T REFUSE ME PROMOTION NOW I'M HEAD OF THE WAITING LIST FOR INSPECTOR'S BARS.
MURPHY, WE KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE. COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP.
HUK! MY TRANSLATION IMPLANT DECIPHERS WHATEVER LANGUAGE THAT IS, BUT THE MEANING IS PUZZLING.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
HUSH, PARTNER! THIS IS THE EXCITING BIT.

COME IN AND GET ME, COPPER.
AN ANCIENT TERRAN VIDEO I PICKED UP.
FASCINATING. NOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY TEAR YOURSELF AWAY AND UNDERTAKE A MODEST AMOUNT OF DUTY?

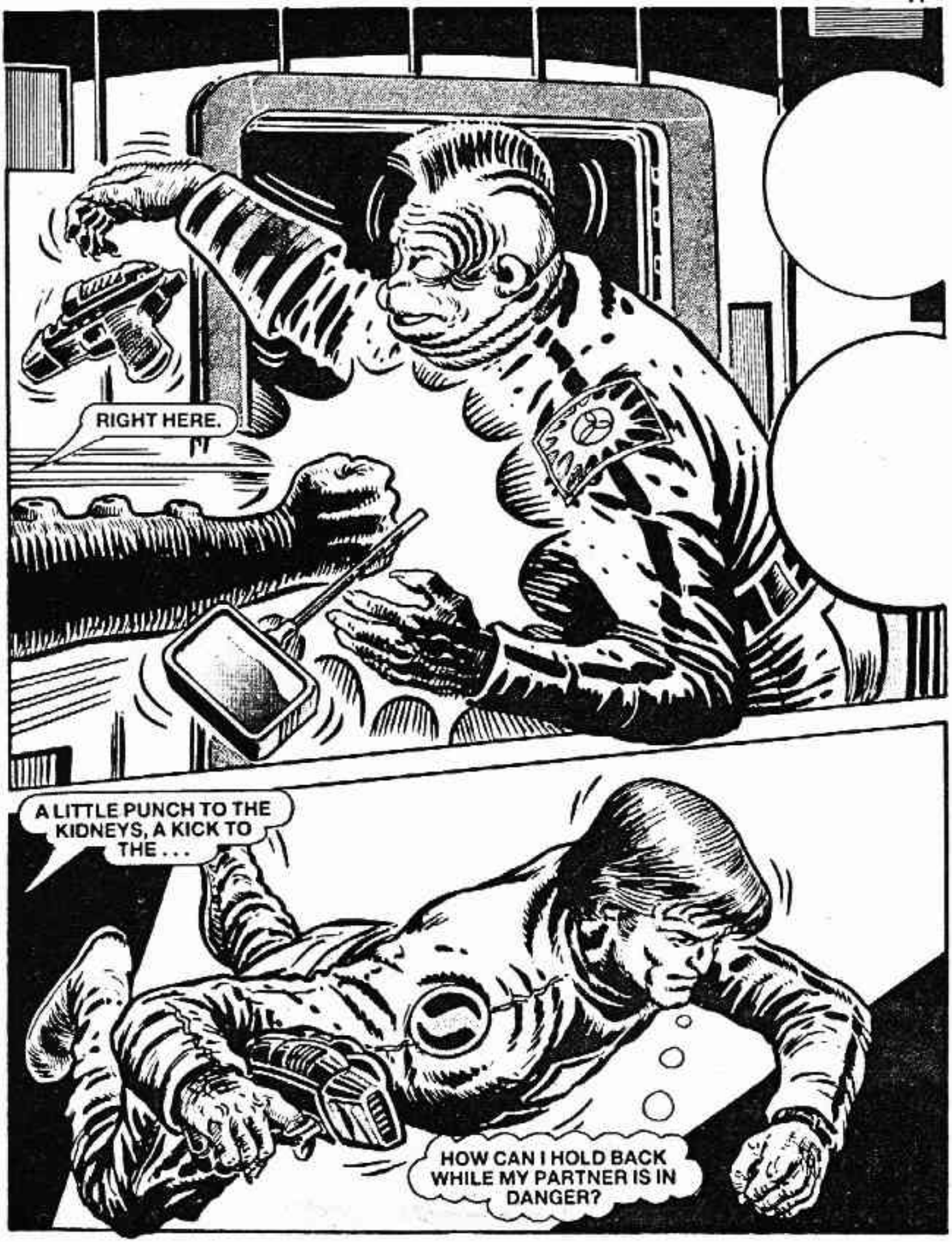

THIS IS THE REAL REASON FOR OUR VISIT — A TIP-OFF ON GLOK GLIZZGLOK, AN INTELLIGENT SAURIAN LIFE-FORM FROM ASCOD-NINE, WHO HAPPENS TO BE THE WORST CONMAN IN THE GALAXY.
HE LOOKS RATHER A JOLLY LITTLE FELLOW.
JOLLY, EH! WATCH THIS. A SHOT OF THE VILLAIN CAUGHT UNAWARES IN ONE OF HIS MANY DISGUISES.
SUBJECT IS OF A SPECIES ABLE TO CHANGE APPEARANCE AT WILL DUE TO POSSESSION OF CHAMELEON-LIKE CONTROL OF BIO-MOLECULAR STRUCTURE. AN ABILITY WHICH MADE IDENTIFICATION DIFFICULT BEFORE HEADQUARTERS CAME UP WITH A SCAN ABLE TO VERIFY THE ACTUAL PHYSIOGNOMY OF ANY ORGANIC LIFE-FORM.

THE POLICE CRAFT DOCKED —
GROK, YOU REALLY SHOULD LEARN TO RELAX. YOU'VE HAD THAT WORRIED LOOK EVER SINCE I'VE KNOWN YOU.
THAT I CAN WELL BELIEVE.
TWO OF OUR LOCAL POLICE, GENTLEMEN. NOW WHERE DO YOU WISH TO BEGIN YOUR INSPECTION?
MIGRATION CONTROL, I THINK, MISTER MAYOR. RECORDS ON TRANSIENT ENTRIES AND DEPARTURES.

GROK AND ZERO BECAME BUSY INSPECTING . . .
FILE 001·28107
IT'S HIM! LOOK FOR YOURSELF THROUGH THE PHYSIOSCAN.

AMAZING! IT IS HIM.
NOW TO TELL MISTER MAYOR WE JUST HAPPEN TO HAVE IDENTIFIED A WANTED CRIMINAL.

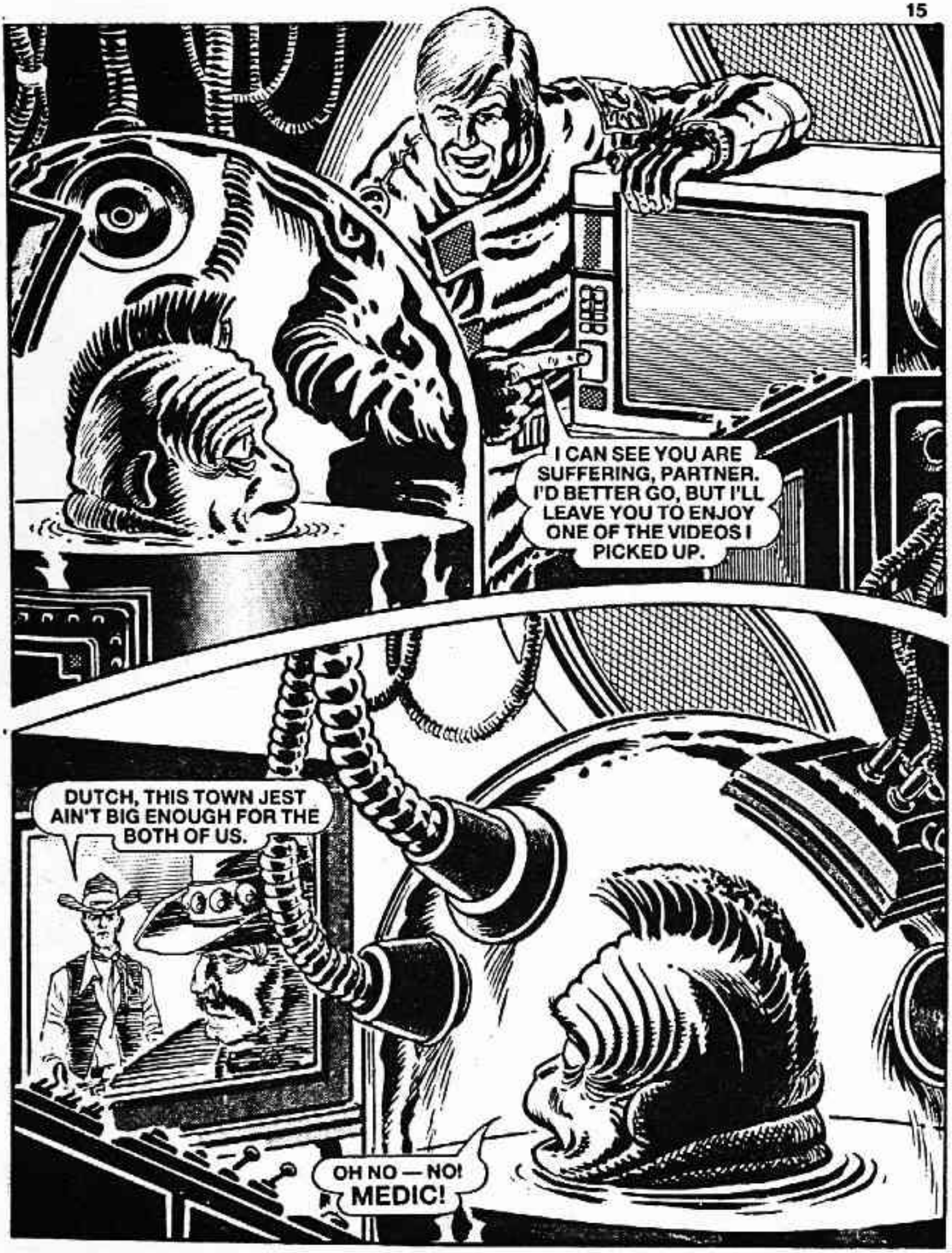
GROK WAS OFFERED HELP BY THE CITY POLICE . . .
THAT'S WHERE HE'S REGISTERED. APARTMENT FIFTY-FOUR ON THE SIXTEENTH LEVEL.
I SUGGEST YOU GENTS STAY DOWN HERE WHILE MY PARTNER AND I TAKE HIM.
PERHAPS I'D BETTER COME IN WITH YOU.
— ER, NO, I'D FEEL MUCH EASIER WITH YOU STAYING AS OUTSIDE COVER.
GROK WENT IN . . .
ALL RIGHT, GLIZZGLOK, WHERE ARE YOU? THE ENTRANCE MONITOR SAYS YOU'RE IN HERE.
HERE I AM, OFFICER.


RIGHT HERE.
A LITTLE PUNCH TO THE KIDNEYS, A KICK TO THE . . .
HOW CAN I HOLD BACK WHILE MY PARTNER IS IN DANGER?

ZERO WENT IN . . .
I'M HERE, PARTNER — ER, GROK — AND GROK.
THAT'S ME, BLOCKHEAD.
NO, BLOCKHEAD, IT'S ME.
IT WON'T WORK, GLIZZGLOK. DO YOU THINK I CAN'T RECOGNISE MY OWN PARTNER FROM A REPTILIAN IMITATION?

FULL NERVE STUN FOR SUCH A DANGEROUS CHARACTER.
URGH!
HULLO! THERE'S THE PHYSIOSCAN.
FINE WORK. GUARD HIM CLOSELY WHILE I FETCH HELP.

THIS THING CAN'T BE FUNCTIONING. THAT REALLY DOES LOOK LIKE GROK . . . UNLESS . . . HUM — ER, OH DEAR.
KINDLY APPREHEND OFFICER GROK — OR WHAT LOOKS LIKE GROK. HE SHOULD BE PASSING YOUR WAY!
HE'S ALREADY PASSED. HE TOOK THE PATROL VEHICLE AND SAID YOU WOULD EXPLAIN EVERYTHING.
YOU'LL BE FINE ONCE THE INFLAMMATION SUBSIDES. TOO BAD WE LET THAT RASCAL GET AWAY. HE'S GONE TO GROUND IN THE ROUGHER PART OF THE CITY.
GROK CAME ROUND IN THE SHIP'S REGENERATION TANK . . .
YOU — HUH . . . KNUCKLEHEAD . . . YOU . . . YOU . . . YOU


I CAN SEE YOU ARE SUFFERING, PARTNER. I'D BETTER GO, BUT I'LL LEAVE YOU TO ENJOY ONE OF THE VIDEOS I PICKED UP.
DUTCH, THIS TOWN JEST AIN'T BIG ENOUGH FOR THE BOTH OF US.
OH NO — NO! MEDIC!

MEDIC, GET THAT ARCHAIC ARTEFACT OUT OF HERE.
CERTAINLY, SIR. SHIP WISHES TO INFORM YOU THAT A HYPERWAVE TRANSMISSION FROM HEADQUARTERS IS BEING PATCHED THROUGH.
SUPERINTENDENT — ER, SORRY YOU SEE ME LIKE THIS, SIR.
FORGET IT, GROK. YOUNG ZERO HAS ALREADY EXPLAINED MATTERS AND MY VIEW IS THAT AN OFFICER OF YOUR STANDING IS ENTITLED TO MAKE THE ODD MISTAKE. THIS CALL IS TO TELL YOU THAT THE COUNCIL HAS AGREED TO YOUR PROMOTION.
I'M AN INSPECTOR! THANK YOU, SIR. WHERE AM I POSTED?
RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE, GROK. GLORYVILLE IS NOW A FEDERATION CITY AND YOU ARE BEING ENTRUSTED WITH FORGING A POLICE DEPARTMENT FROM LOCAL MATERIAL. IT'S A BIG CHALLENGE, BUT I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT.

YOU MAY KEEP OFFICER ZERO AS YOUR ASSISTANT. HIS ENTHUSIASM SHOULD BE A GREAT HELP. GOOD LUCK, INSPECTOR GROK — GOODBYE FOR NOW.
SIR — WAIT. DON'T SIGN OFF. OH, BLISTERING GEGENSCHEIN, HE'S GONE.
EMERGENCY! GROK GOING INTO SHOCK. METABOLIC BOOST REQUIRED.

A REGENERATED GROK SHUTTLED DOWN TO HIS NEW DUTIES . . .
OFFICER ZERO, YOU WOULD BEST SERVE BY GOING UNDERCOVER AND TRYING TO PICK UP A TRACE OF GLOK GLIZZGLOK. IT WILL MEAN YOU KEEPING AWAY FROM THE STATION, BUT I'LL JUST HAVE TO MANAGE ON MY OWN.
YOU MEAN I'M TO BECOME A DETECTIVE!
OUR LOCAL POLICE FOR THE BASIS OF YOUR NEW FORCE, INSPECTOR.
I'LL CHECK THEM OUT AND THOSE WHO SATISFY CAN UNDERGO SUBCON INSTRUCTION IN FEDERATION LAW AND POLICE ROUTINE.
GROK RELAXED IN HIS NEW LAND QUARTERS AFTER A BUSY DAY . . .
MY OWN NICK, THE DREAM OF EVERY COPPER.
CAN I COME IN?

WHAT ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE?
A DETECTIVE, INSPECTOR. I CHECKED MY VIDEO LIBRARY FOR THE NAME AND LEARNED THAT THIS IS HOW SUCH ARE ATTIRED ON SOME AREAS OF SOL-THREE. MOST USEFUL FOR CONCEALING THE TRUE IDENTITY OF A POLICE OFFICER.
OFFICER ZERO, GET OUT OF HERE.
INSPECTOR, I DO UNDERSTAND. YOU ARE SO IMPRESSED THAT YOU WISH ME TO COMMENCE MY DUTY WITHOUT DELAY.

ZERO UNDERTOOK HIS FIRST UNDERCOVER PATROL IN THE ROUGH AREAS OF THE CITY . . .
GROK PUTS ON A BRAVE FACE, BUT THE WORRY IS THERE EACH TIME I SEE HIM. SO TYPICAL OF HIM HOW HE CONCEALS HIS RELIEF THAT I AM HERE AS HIS ASSISTANT.
NOW TO COMMENCE DETECTING BY MINGLING UNOBTRUSIVELY WITH THE CITIZENRY.

FOLKS, A BIG WELCOME FOR ONE OF OUR NEW FEDCOPS. YOUR FIRST DRINK IS ON THE HOUSE, OFFICER ZERO.
HUH — OH, ER, VERY DECENT OF YOU.

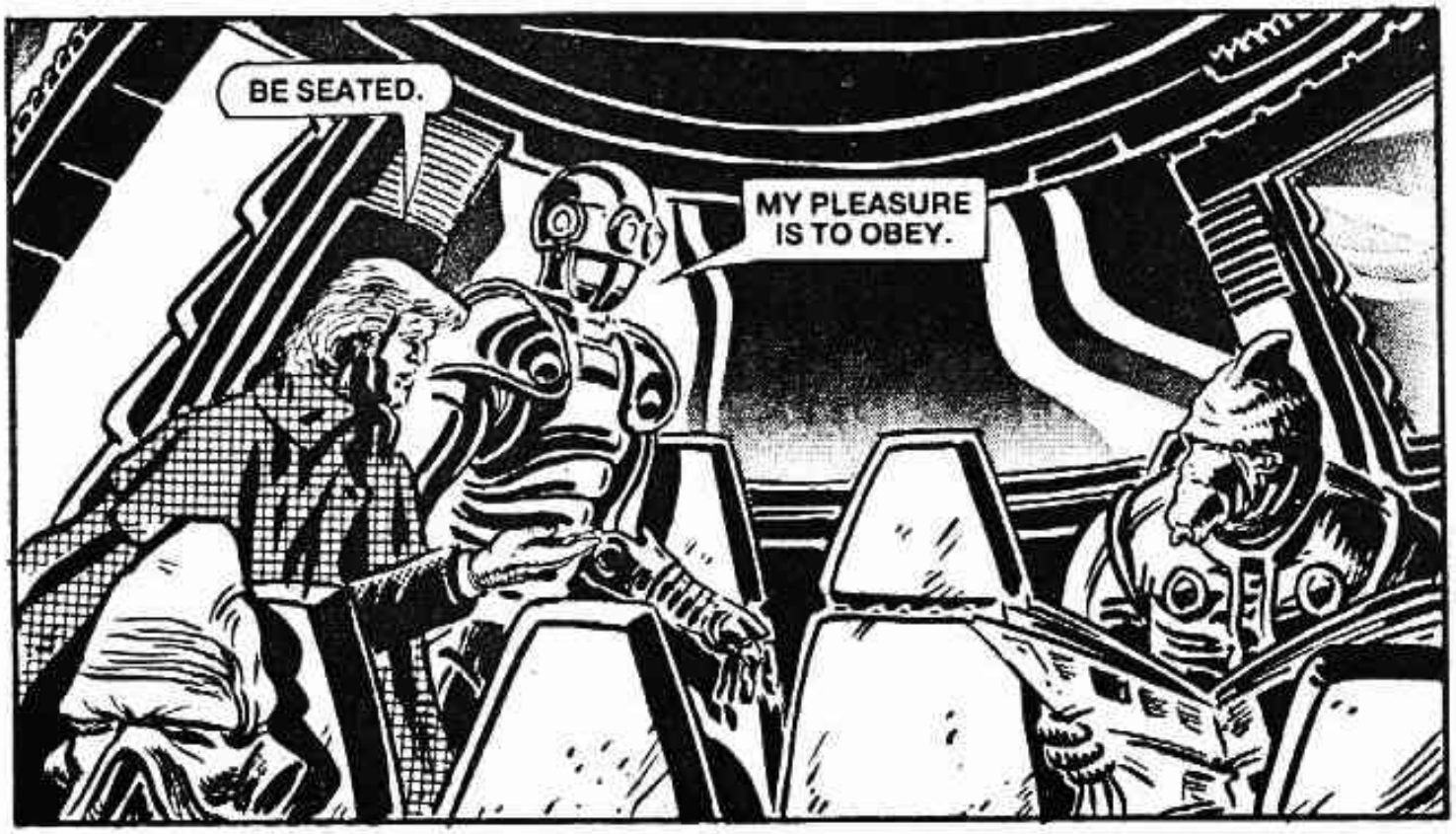
I SHAKE A MEAN CEREBRUM-BENDER IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF, EH, OFFICER.
URRRRH — OH, YES — URGH!

ZERO MANAGED A DISCREET EXIT . . .
SUCH FRIENDLY PEOPLE.
COME THIS WAY, SIR.

I AM JOJOJOKLUMF, AN ALMOST HONEST ENTREPRENEUR FROM THE ZELTOS SYSTEM. JUST CALL ME HONEST JOK. SIR, I CAN DO YOU A BIG FAVOUR.
EVERYBODY IS SO NICE. SUCH A FRIENDLY PLACE.
ROBOSERVITORS OF THE LATEST TYPE. ANY RETAIL OUTLET WILL CHARGE AT LEAST FIFTY THOUSAND CREDITS FOR ONE OF THESE BEAUTIES. I AM ABLE TO REDUCE THAT PRICE NOT TO A HALF, BUT TO LESS THAN A QUARTER — TO TEN THOUSAND CREDITS. WHAT IS THE CATCH, I HEAR YOU ASK?
HUM — ER, PRECISELY WHAT I WAS GOING TO ASK.

LOOK AT THIS — THE STAMP OF GALACTIC TRADING STANDARDS. SIR, YOU WILL BE AWARE THIS TOKEN IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DUPLICATE. IT PROVES THE GENUINE NATURE OF MY MERCHANDISE.
OH YES, IT DOES INDEED.
SIR, MY SECRET IS THAT I DEAL IN BULK, I KEEP MY OVERHEADS LOW AND I SCORN THE MASSIVE PROFITS OF LARGER RETAILERS. IN MY OWN SMALL WAY I TRY TO KEEP DOWN THE SPIRALLING BURDEN OF INFLATION.
MOST COMMENDABLE — ER, DO YOU TAKE CREDIT CARDS?
ZERO MADE A PURCHASE AND HONEST JOK DEPARTED — RAPIDLY . . .
HULLOA! I AM AT YOUR SERVICE.
YOU WILL FOLLOW ME.

JUST A SIMPLE GESTURE TO SHOW GROK HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE HIM AS MY PARTNER. UNDER THAT FLINTY EXTERIOR I KNOW THERE IS A WARM AND KINDLY SENTIENT BEING.

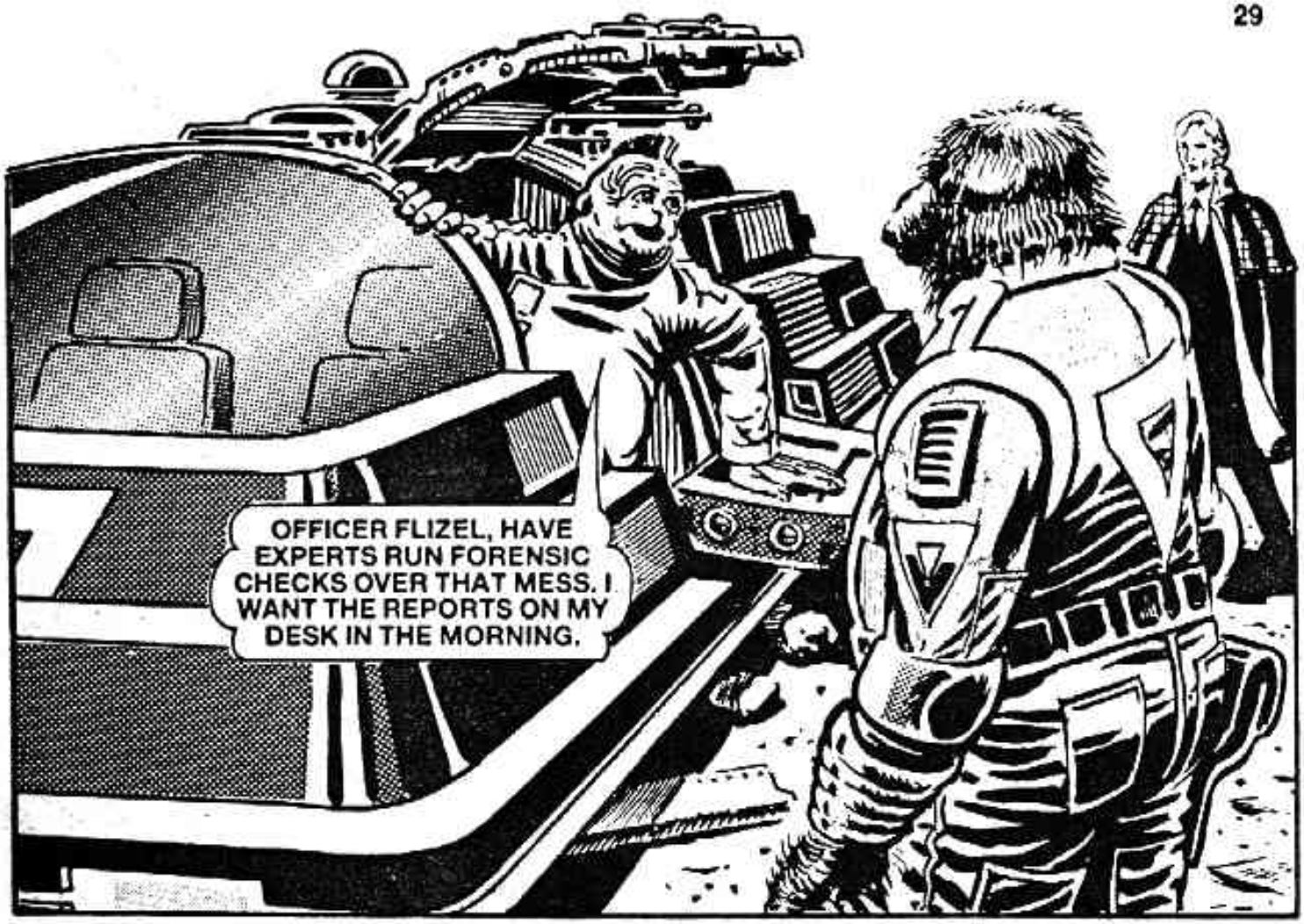

BE SEATED.
MY PLEASURE IS TO OBEY.

I MEANT AN UNOCCUPIED SEAT! OBVIOUSLY SOME SMALL FLAW IN THE SERVITOR'S PROGRAMMING.
ORDERED OFF PUBLIC TRANSPORT, ZERO AND HIS PURCHASE FINISHED THEIR JOURNEY AFOOT . . .
IDENTITY VERIFIED. HOWEVER, INSPECTOR GROK HAS LEFT INSTRUCTIONS HE IS NOT TO BE DISTURBED.
ADVISE HIM THIS IS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH.
ZERO WAS GRANTED ADMITTANCE . . .
WHO'S AFTER YOU? WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO NOW?
A SMALL DECEPTION, PARTNER. I INTRUDED ONLY TO DELIVER A GIFT.

A ROBOT! WHAT DO I NEED WITH A ROBOT IN AN APARTMENT WITH A DOMESTIC SERVICE SYSTEM.
I AM SURE THE SERVITOR WILL EASILY INTEGRATE AND THINK HOW NICE IT WILL BE TO COME HOME AFTER A HARD DAY TO A WELCOME BY A FRIENDLY ROBOT READY WITH A NICE DRINK AND YOUR FOOT-COMFORTERS.
INTERRUPTION CAME FROM A VID-SCAN . . .
INSPECTOR, YOU ASKED TO BE INFORMED IF THERE WAS A FURTHER EXPLOSION. ONE HAS JUST TAKEN PLACE.
I'LL BE RIGHT ALONG. BEAM DATA TO MY PATROLLER.

I'LL DISCUSS THIS GIFT WITH YOU LATER.
DUTY FIRST, EH, PARTNER. I'M RIGHT WITH YOU.
GROK — ER, INSPECTOR, SURELY INVESTIGATING EXPLOSIONS IS NOT NORMAL POLICE WORK.
I DECIDED IT WAS WHEN I FOUND THERE'D BEEN FOUR THIS PAST MONTH — FOUR DOMESTIC EXPLOSIONS OF WHICH THE CAUSES CANNOT BE EXPLAINED.
EXPLOSION IS IN THE APARTMENT OF ONE SIMBERT WELT.

MUCH LIKE THE OTHERS, INSPECTOR. A COMBUSTION PRODUCING EXTREME HEAT AND FUSING ALL ELECTRONICS IN THE APARTMENT. THE RESULTING FIRE HAS BEEN EXTINGUISHED IF YOU WISH TO LOOK AROUND.
THE OWNER'S FORTUNATE HE WAS IN ANOTHER ROOM WHEN THIS HAPPENED. SO FAR THERE HAVE BEEN NO CASUALTIES, BUT THERE WILL BE IF MORE OF THESE BANGS HAPPEN.


OFFICER FLIZEL, HAVE EXPERTS RUN FORENSIC CHECKS OVER THAT MESS. I WANT THE REPORTS ON MY DESK IN THE MORNING.

THE INSPECTOR SEEMS TO HAVE FORGOTTEN YOU, OFFICER ZERO.
THAT'S JUST HIS WAY. WHAT HE'S DOING IS GIVING ME THE CHANCE TO GET ON WITH A SPOT OF DETECTING.

ZERO BEGAN QUESTIONING NEIGHBOURS . . .
THERE'S SOMETHING IN HERE.
I TOLD YOU THAT. I WAS ABOUT TO ENTER MY APARTMENT WHEN AN EXPLOSION AND A MISSILE NEARLY TOOK MY HEAD OFF.
A GALACTIC TRADING STANDARDS STAMP. MOST ODD.

THE SHOCKED OWNER OF THE EXPLODED APARTMENT HAD BEEN TAKEN TO THE LOCAL MEDCARE CLINIC . . .
CITIZEN WELT, THIS STAMP IS USED ONLY ON ROBOTS OF MOSTLY ELECTRONIC NATURE — YET YOUR INSURANCE INVENTORY DOES NOT LIST SUCH AN APPLIANCE.
I'D ONLY HAD IT A COUPLE OF DAYS. SUCH A CHEAP BUY — ALMOST A STEAL. YOU SEE, I MET THIS ZELTOSAN WHO IS ABLE TO BUY IN BULK AND SELL CHEAPLY . . .
AN HONEST FELLOW WHO IS SATISFIED WITH A MODEST PROFIT.
HONEST JOK!
GROK ARRIVED BACK AT HIS QUARTERS . . .
WELCOME, MASTER. LIQUID REFRESHMENT MIXED ACCORDING TO YOUR INSTRUCTIONS. ALLOW ME TO DIVEST YOU OF YOUR BELT AND SIDEARM.

HUM! NOT BAD. ZERO MAY BE A MORON, BUT HE DOES HAVE GOOD INTENTIONS.
TRANSMISSION FROM OFFICER ZERO. HE WISHES CONTACT ON A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH.
HURK! I'VE HEARD THAT BEFORE.
INFORM OFFICER ZERO THAT I WILL ALLOW HIM A MEETING IN MY OFFICE IN THE MORNING.

ZERO WAS ON THE MOVE . . .
PATCH ME THROUGH — DO YOU HEAR? I MUST SPEAK TO INSPECTOR GROK.
UNABLE TO COMPLY. I HAVE DEFINITE INSTRUCTIONS.
FASTER, FLIZEL — FASTER. I CAN ONLY HOPE I'M WRONG.

GROK RELAXED IN COMFORT . . .
MASTER, YOUR FEET COMFORTERS.
AH, YES — LIGHTLY WARMED, I TRUST.
WHAT THE COSMOS?
PARDON . . . SLIGHT MALFUNCTION . . . SELF-REPAIR INITIATED . . .
MASTER, THE NEW ROBOSERVITOR IS OVERHEATING. CAUSE — UNSTABLE POWERPACK BECOMING CRITICAL. COMBUSTION IS IMMINENT.
UH?

GROK MOVED AT SPEED . . .
BOOM!
TOO LATE! MY POOR OLD PARTNER.

GROK! YOU ARE NOT TERMINATED. I CAME TO WARN YOU OF A POSSIBLE PROBLEM WITH THAT ROBOT.
THANKS, BUT I DISCOVERED IT FOR MYSELF.
GROK — *EURGH* — YOU ARE THROTTLING ME.
YES! IT FEELS WONDERFUL.
PARTNER, I TRULY HATE TO DO THIS, BUT OBVIOUSLY YOU ARE DERANGED BY SHOCK.
ARGHHHH!

GROK, UNCONSCIOUS, WAS RUSHED INTO REGENERATION IN THE MEDCARE CLINIC . . .
AREAS OF EPIDERMIS REQUIRE PATCHING, BUT MAIN INJURY IS CONTUSION TO OCCIPUT OF NATURE CONSISTENT WITH IMPACT FROM HEAVY OBJECT.
HUM — ER, A WOUND RECEIVED IN THE COURSE OF DUTY. I LEAVE HIM TO YOUR CARE.
YES, MISTER MAYOR, INSPECTOR GROK IS UNWELL, AND I FEEL IT MY DUTY TO UNDERTAKE HIS OFFICE PENDING HIS RECOVERY.
MUCH OBLIGED, OFFICER ZERO. I AM SURE THE GALLANT INSPECTOR WOULD BE HAPPY TO KNOW THAT.
NEXT DAY ZERO MUSTERED HIS NEW COMMAND . . .
GENTLEMEN, MY INVESTIGATIONS LEAD ME TO BELIEVE THAT BEHIND THESE EXPLOSIONS IS ONE JOJOJOKLUMF, A NATIVE OF THE ZELTOS SYSTEM. IS ANYTHING KNOWN ABOUT THIS INDIVIDUAL?
WE NEVER WENT IN MUCH FOR RECORDS WHEN THIS WAS A FRONTIER HABITATION, BUT WE DO HAVE A LITTLE ON HONEST JOK.

LET'S GO GET HIM.
HE DID A COUPLE OF SHORT STRETCHES FOR FRAUD. SINCE THEN HE'S KEPT HIS TENTACLES CLEAN. HE HANGS OUT NEAR SPACEDOCK IN AN OLD WAREHOUSE.

HONEST JOK HAD A GUEST . . .
TOP MERCHANDISE, MISTER GLIZZGLOK, AND I'VE GOT GENUINE STANDARDS STAMPS FOR THEM ALL.
I AM IMPRESSED ENOUGH TO CONSIDER GALACTIC DISTRIBUTION, BUT AM CONCERNED AT THE FOLLY OF RISKING THE SALE OF SUCH ITEMS IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD.

SECURITY SPEAKING. I HAVE TO ANNOUNCE THE PRESENCE OF SEVERAL PERSONS ABOUT THIS BUILDING.
HEY! THAT'S THE DUMMY COP WHO BOUGHT ONE OF MY UNITS.

WE KNOW YOU ARE IN THERE, HONEST JOK. COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP.

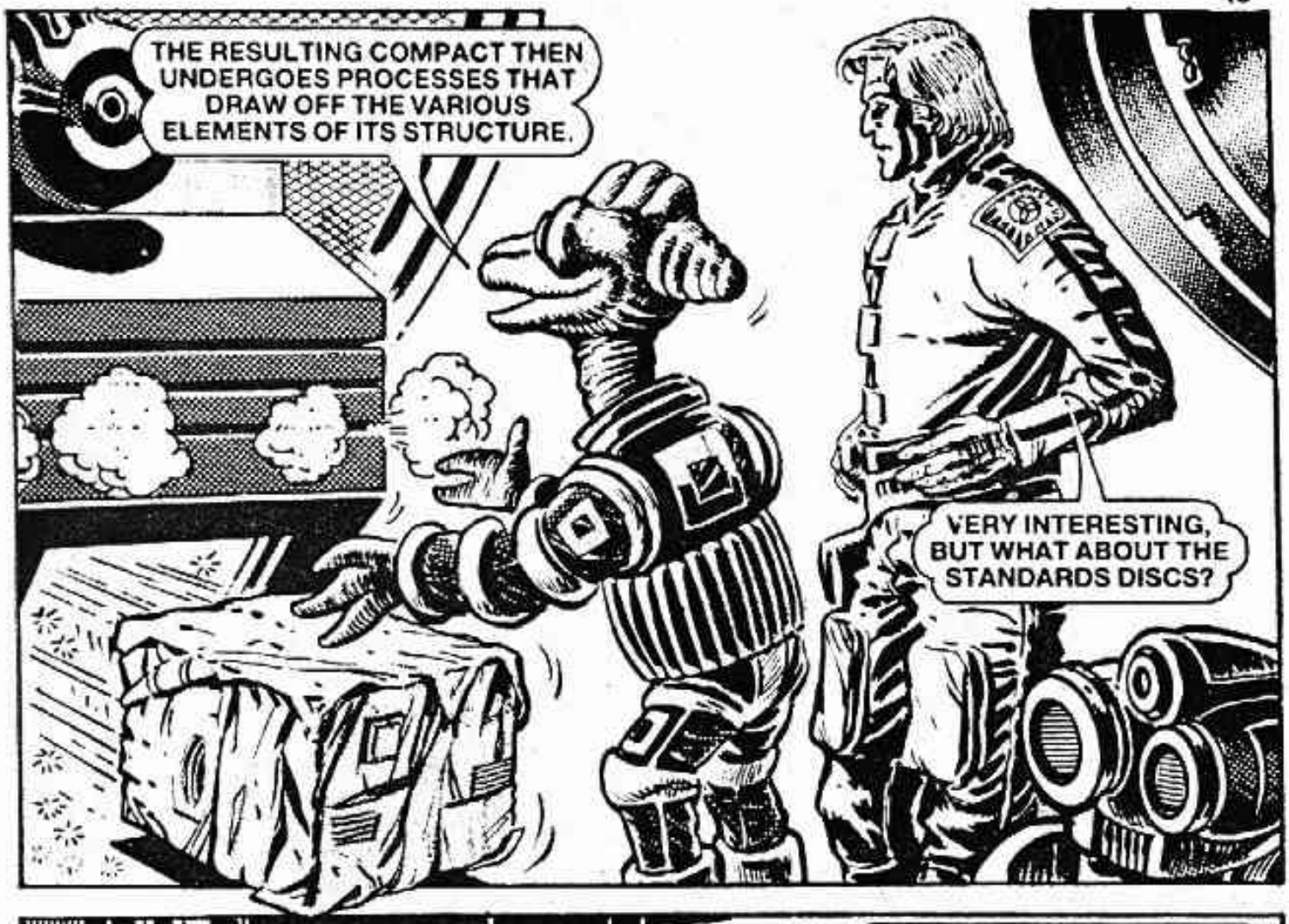
THEY'RE ALL ROUND US — HEY! WHAT YOU DOING?
I AM DOING SOMETHING WHICH WILL SAVE US BOTH FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR STUPIDITY.
HE'S COMING OUT.

ZERO HAD A SURPRISE . . .
GROK — YOU! BUT YOU'RE IN THE MEDCARE TANK.
I REGENERATE QUICKLY. NOW GET OUT OF THE WAY AND ALLOW ME TO TAKE MY PRISONER INTO CUSTODY.
CURIOUS THAT INSPECTOR GROK IS WEARING HIS OLD SENIOR PATROLLER RANK INSTEAD OF HIS INSPECTOR'S BARS.
YES, IT'S NOT LIKE GROK — OH DEAR! FLIZEL, WE MUST INSTITUTE PURSUIT PROCEDURE.
MEDCARE CONFIRMS INSPECTOR GROK STILL UNDERGOING TREATMENT.
I KNEW IT — GLIZZGLOK. THAT CRAFTY ASCOD GLOBULE IS MIXED UP IN THIS CASE.

THERE THEY GO.
SO THEY ADD TO THEIR CRIMES BY DRIVING INTO A PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT. FLIZEL, YOU WILL MAINTAIN PURSUIT.
THEY'RE NEARING THE ELEVATORS. NOW THEY HAVE TO STOP.

THE FUGITIVE VEHICLE STOPPED . . .
DAMAGE TO CITY PROPERTY BY CARELESS DRIVING. YET ANOTHER TRAFFIC OFFENCE.
EMPTY! THEY MUST HAVE JUMPED OUT A WAY BACK AND LEFT IT TO RUN ON AUTO.
AH, THE CUNNING OF THE CRIMINAL MIND! FLIZEL, YOU WILL TAKE CHARGE OF THE SEARCH FOR THEM WHILE I CONTINUE MY INVESTIGATIONS ALONG OTHER LINES.
ZERO RETURNED TO THE WAREHOUSE . . .
NO STOCK, NO RECORDS — NOTHING. ENLARGE SCOPE OF ENQUIRY FOR ANY OTHER STORAGE LOCATION USED BY HONEST JOK.
DATABASE ADVISED. ANSWER AVAILABLE TO ANOTHER OF YOUR ENQUIRIES. GALACTIC TRADING STANDARDS STAMP SUBMITTED BY YOU BELONGED TO A TD504 CONSTRUCTION-ROBOT DAMAGED BEYOND REPAIR AND RELEGATED TO BREAKER'S YARD.

ZERO TOOK A DRIVE . . .
THAT MUST BE HOW HONEST JOK GETS THE DISCS. AN INTEGRAL PART OF ANY APPROVED ROBOT, THEY CAN BE REMOVED ONLY BY AN AUTHORISED BREAKER WHO BECOMES RESPONSIBLE FOR TURNING THEM OVER TO THE POLICE FOR OFFICIAL DESTRUCTION.
YES, OFFICER, ANY BROKEN-DOWN ROBOT COMES TO US AT THE VOKLOS REFINERY, THE ONLY BREAKER AUTHORISED BY THE CITY. YOU OBSERVE ONE UNDERGOING COMPRESSION.


THE RESULTING COMPACT THEN UNDERGOES PROCESSES THAT DRAW OFF THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF ITS STRUCTURE.
VERY INTERESTING, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE STANDARDS DISCS?

OFFICER, THE STAMPS ARE SAFE — EACH ONE REMOVED AND STORED IN THIS SAFE OF WHICH THE LOCKING MECHANISM RESPONDS ONLY TO MY PERSONAL TOUCH. IN HERE IS ONE YEAR'S COLLECTION AWAITING DELIVERY TO THE POLICE.

EMPTY — GONE! I HAVE BEEN ROBBED — BUT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE. I WAS SOLD THIS SAFE AT AN EXTREMELY REASONABLE PRICE BY THIS BEING FROM ASCOD-NINE —
WHO DEALS IN BULK, KEEPS HIS OVERHEADS LOW AND IS SATISFIED WITH A MODEST PROFIT.
OFFICER FLIZEL, HAS THE DATABASE COME UP WITH ANYTHING ON HONEST JOK'S OTHER LOCATION?
I CAN GIVE YOU A NAVLOG TO A PLACE HE HAS OUTSIDE THE CITY. HE BORROWED ONE OF MY TRANSPORTERS TO SHIFT SOME STUFF OUT THERE.
INSPECTOR GROK AWOKE...
GREETINGS. THIS IS YOUR MEDIC. I HAVE ROUSED YOU TO ENQUIRE THE TYPE OF HEAD-HAIR YOU DESIRE FOR REPLACEMENT.
HEAD — HUH! WHERE AM I? AH, I REMEMBER — THAT CAPELLAN CLOWN TRIED TO BLOW ME UP.

ZERO!
FRACTIOUS PATIENT. SEDATION INDICATED.
RETURN PATIENT TO TANK.
YOU HEARD THE MEDIC, SIR. BE GOOD AND DO LIKE YOU ARE TOLD.
GROK STRUCK OUT —
THIS PATIENT IS DISCHARGING HIMSELF.
SIR — KERCHUNKUNK.

FLIZEL, PICK ME UP AT THE CLINIC RIGHT AWAY — AND BRING ME A SPARE UNIFORM.
WHAT — ER, VERY GOOD, INSPECTOR.
HEADQUARTERS, FLIZEL — AND A SITUATION REPORT ON THE WAY.
GROK WAS COLLECTED . . .

. . . AND THAT BRINGS YOU UP TO THE PRESENT, INSPECTOR — JOJOJOKLUMF AND HIS ACCOMPLICE GLIZZGLOK HAVE GONE TO GROUND. DO YOU WISH OFFICER ZERO INFORMED YOU ARE NOW BACK ON THE CASE?
NO . . . NEVER . . . NOT A CHANCE!

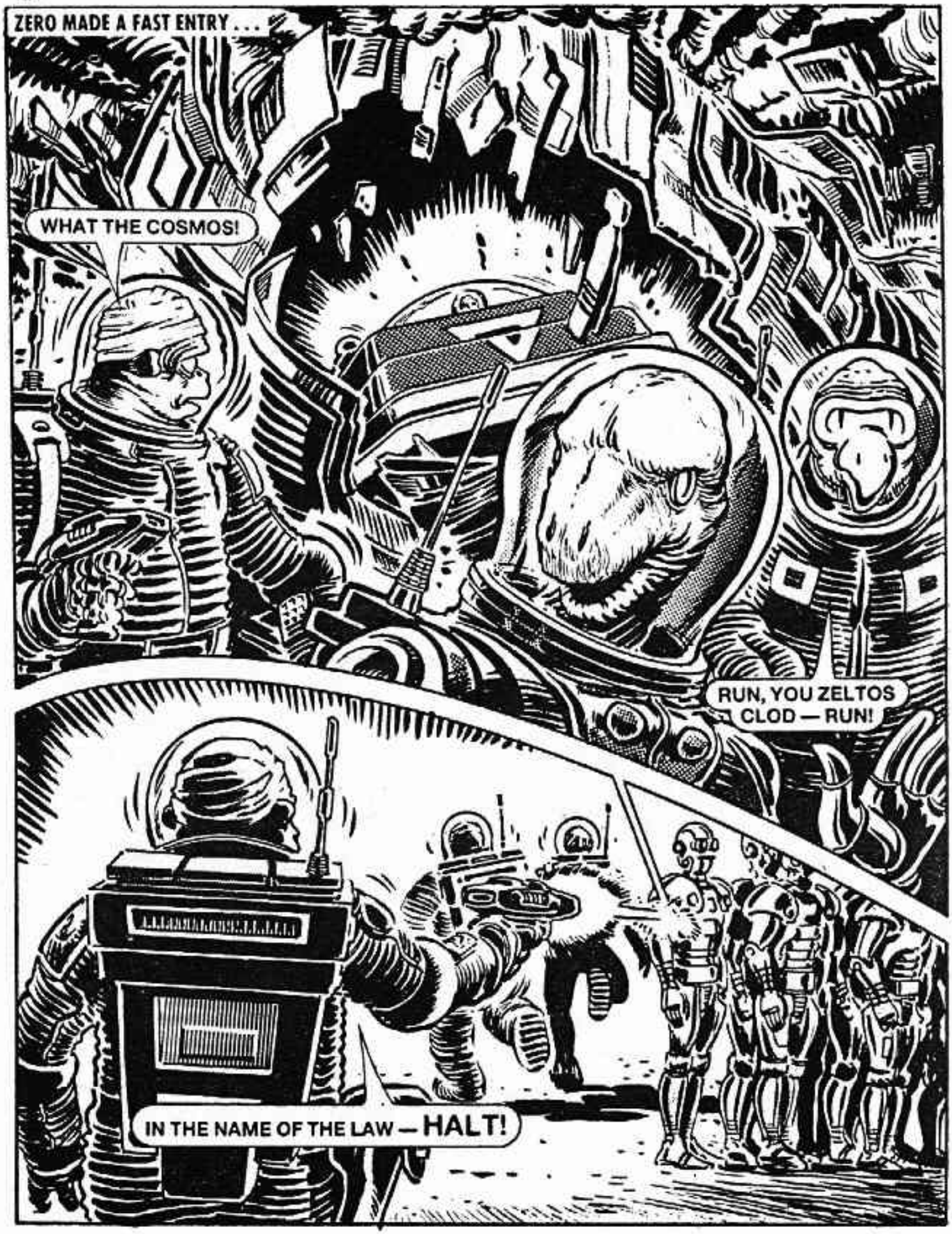
DATABASE HAS RESPONSE TO ENQUIRY BY OFFICER ZERO. SUSPECT JOJOJOKLUMF HAS RENTED DISUSED MINING SHAFT IN BADLAND SECTOR 32 BEYOND CITY BOUNDS.
FLIZEL, CHANGE DESTINATION. MAKE FOR SPACEDOCK INSTEAD.

GROK AND FLIZEL TOOK OFF IN THE SPACEWARPER'S SHUTTLE . . .
CO-ORDINATES FED INTO NAVLOG, INSPECTOR. ARRIVAL TIME COMPUTED FOR TWELVE MINUTES.
YOU TAKE THE CONTROLS. I'M GETTING SUITED UP.
THE RAMP TO THE SHAFT. INFRA-RED SCAN REGISTERS HEAT RESIDUE OF RECENT PASSAGE OF VEHICLE.
SO THEY'RE DOWN THERE, EH.

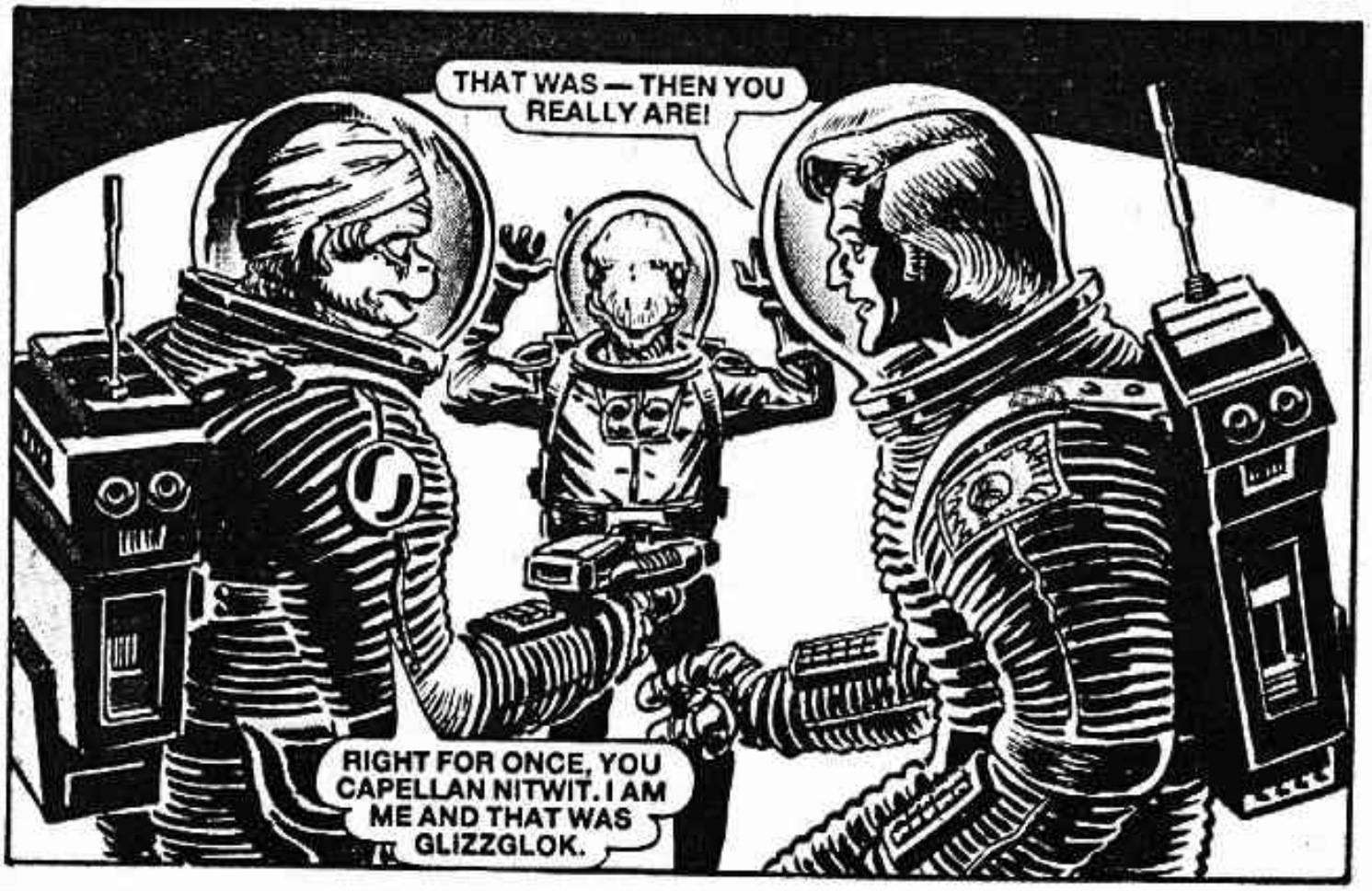
GROK AIRLOCKED FROM THE SHUTTLE . . .
GRAB ANYONE WHO COMES OUT — EVEN IF IT LOOKS LIKE ME.
A HOVTRUCK, LIGHT FROM INSIDE — AND MY VHF IS STARTING TO PICK UP VOICES.
PROBLEM *CRACKLE* WHAT YOU MEAN *CRACKLE* THOUGHT . . . WAS GOOD STOCK . . .
NOW THERE'S A NOVELTY — EXPLODING ROBOTS. I CAN REALLY SEE THEM CATCHING ON IN A GALACTIC SALES DRIVE.
THEY'RE LIABLE TO A SMALL MALFUNCTION — ER, THEY SORT OF EXPLODE.

MISTER GLIZZGLOK — ER, WE HAVE COMPANY.
DANGEROUS COMPANY. EVEN A TWITCH FROM EITHER OF YOU TWO AND I'LL FRICASSEE YOUR NERVE-ENDS WITH A FULL STUN-BLAST.
OFFICER ZERO HAD TAKEN THE GROUND ROUTE . . .
MY SHUTTLE FROM MY SPACEWARPER! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

INSPECTOR GROK HAS GONE DOWN THE MINE TO EFFECT THE ARREST OF TWO SUSPECTS.
GROK, EH! GROK WHOM WE KNOW TO BE IN MEDCARE. FLIZEL, I AM SURPRISED YOU SHOULD BE DUPED TWICE BY THE SAME VILLAIN.
THE PATROLLER HOVERED DOWN THE SHAFT . . .
OFFICER ZERO — WAIT. IT REALLY IS INSPECTOR GROK DOWN THERE.
FLIZEL, I QUITE UNDERSTAND. GLIZZGLOK HAS COME CLOSE TO FOOLING EVEN ME.
IN FAST — ACT FAST. CANNOT ALLOW THAT SLIPPERY ASCOD-NINER THE CHANCE OF ANOTHER OF HIS CHANGES.


ZERO MADE A FAST ENTRY . . .
WHAT THE COSMOS!
RUN, YOU ZELTOS CLOD — RUN!
IN THE NAME OF THE LAW — HALT!

PLEASE DO NOT SHOOT ME. I HAVE MUCH AVERSION TO PAIN AND DISCOMFORT.
I SHALL TRY TO RESTRAIN MYSELF.


THAT WAS — THEN YOU REALLY ARE!
RIGHT FOR ONCE, YOU CAPELLAN NITWIT. I AM ME AND THAT WAS GLIZZGLOK.

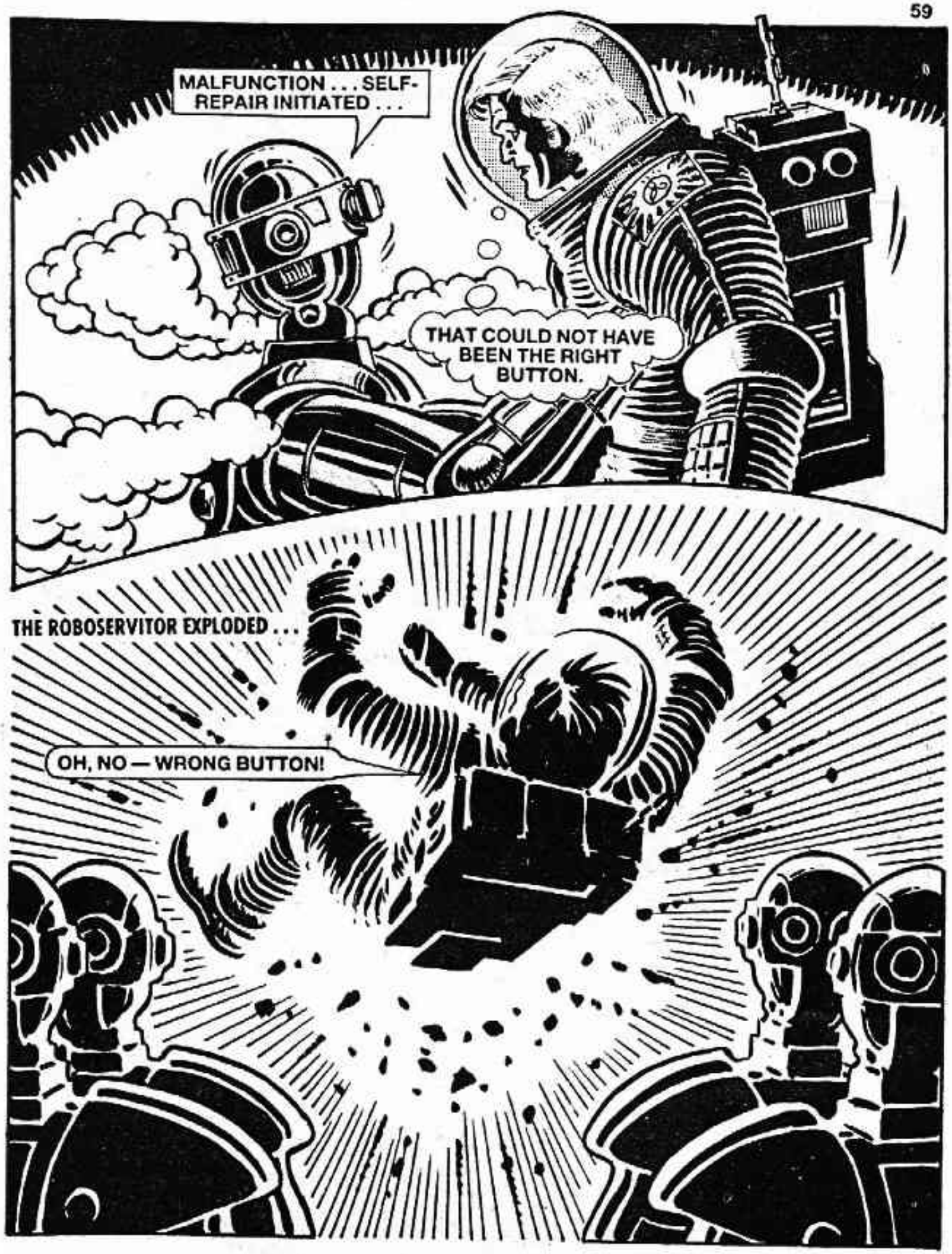
THEN LEAVE HIM TO ME, PARTNER. YOU ARE STILL AN UNWELL BEING.
COME BACK HERE.

ZERO WENT ON . . .

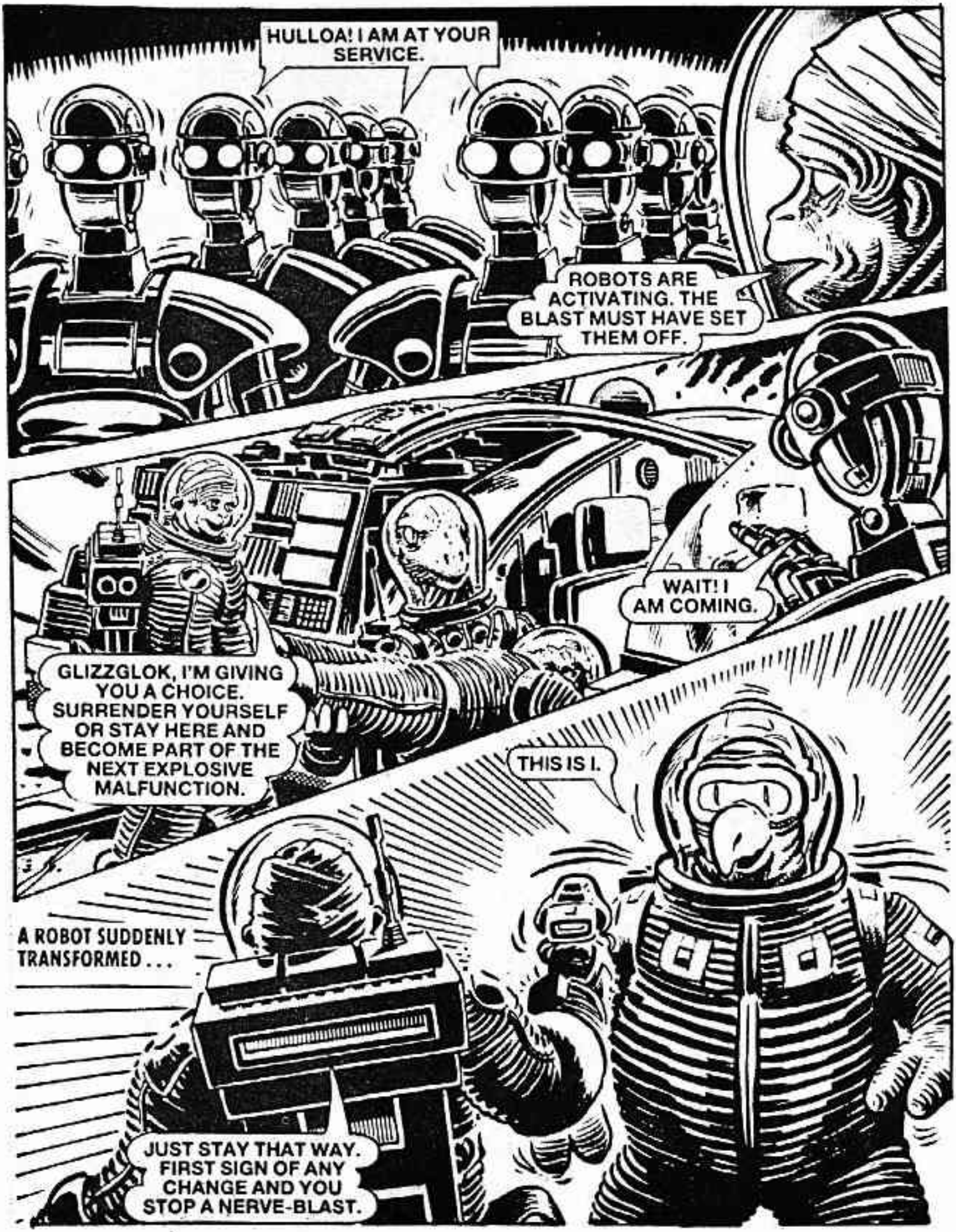
HULLOA! I AM AT YOUR SERVICE.
THIS IS HOW IT SHOULD BE. LAWPERSON AGAINST VILLAIN. THE INEVITABLE FINAL CONFRONTATION BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG.
AHAH! THE GLOBULAR RASCAL MAKES A MOVE.

GLIZZGLOK, YOU THINK TO FOOL ME BY TRANSFORMING INTO A ROBOSERVITOR. WELL, YOUR MOLECULAR STRUCTURE MAY NOW APPEAR METALLIC, BUT LET'S SEE HOW IT INGESTS A NERVE-BLAST.
HUM — ER, ODD. OBVIOUSLY A GENUINE ROBOT.
LET ME DOWN, YOU BIONIC MORON. I AM THE LAW.

OBEY YOUR ORDERS. PUT OUT THE GARBAGE.
MY PLEASURE IS TO OBEY.
MUST DEACTIVATE THE ITEM. SIMPLY A MATTER OF PRESSING THE RIGHT BUTTON.


MALFUNCTION . . . SELF-REPAIR INITIATED . . .
THAT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN THE RIGHT BUTTON.
THE ROBOSERVITOR EXPLODED . . .
OH, NO — WRONG BUTTON!

ZERO! MY PARTNER!
LIFE SIGNS POSITIVE. AT LEAST HE HAD THE GOOD LUCK TO LAND ON HIS HEAD.

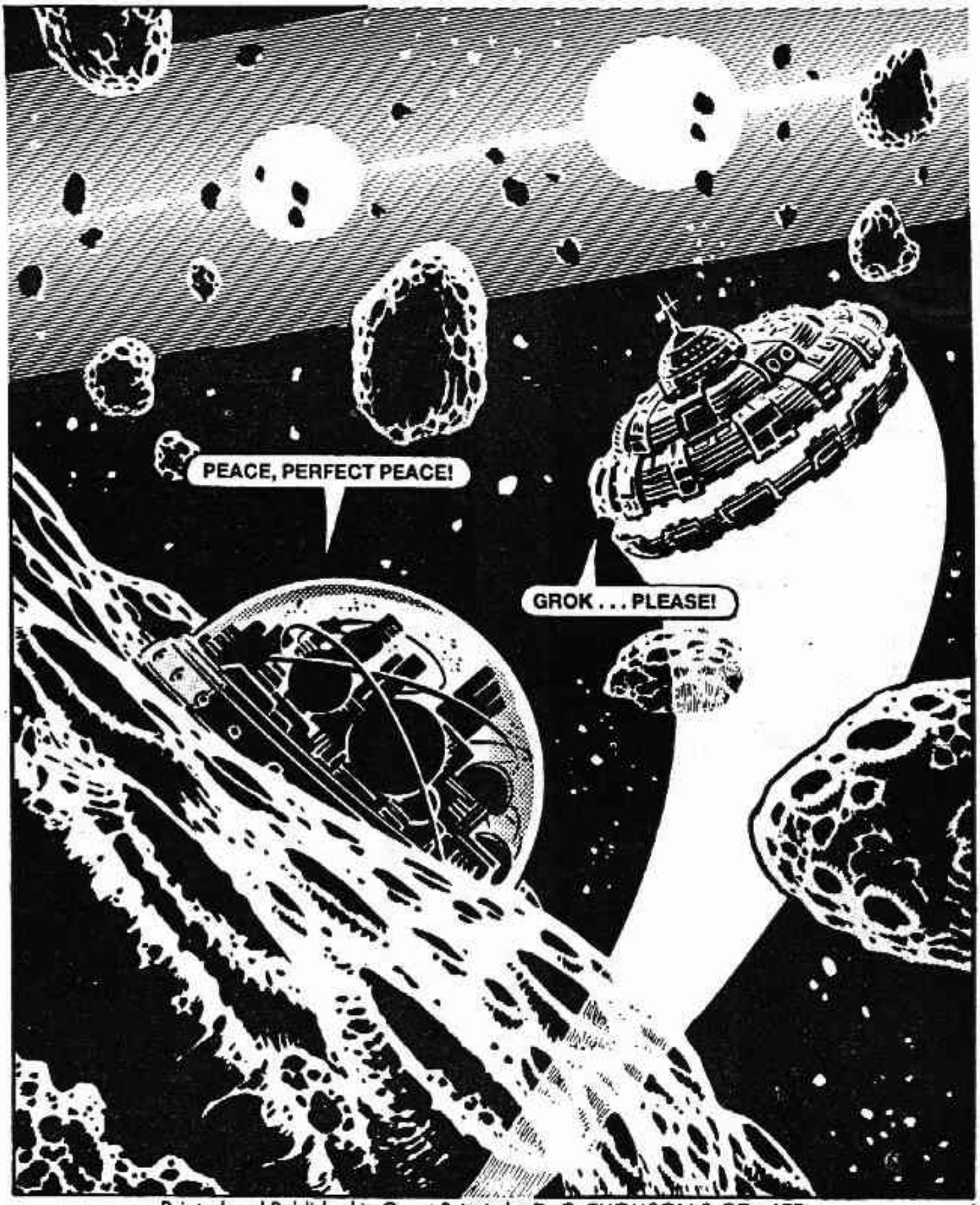

HULLOA! I AM AT YOUR SERVICE.
ROBOTS ARE ACTIVATING. THE BLAST MUST HAVE SET THEM OFF.
WAIT! I AM COMING.
GLIZZGLOK, I'M GIVING YOU A CHOICE. SURRENDER YOURSELF OR STAY HERE AND BECOME PART OF THE NEXT EXPLOSIVE MALFUNCTION.
THIS IS I.
A ROBOT SUDDENLY TRANSFORMED . . .
JUST STAY THAT WAY. FIRST SIGN OF ANY CHANGE AND YOU STOP A NERVE-BLAST.

THE PARTY MOVED OUT . . .
THERE GOES ANOTHER OF THEM.
ONE FLAW IN OTHERWISE SOUND MERCHANDISE, MISTER GLIZZGLOK. THAT IS WHY I GOT THEM SO CHEAPLY.
FLIZEL, WE'RE UPLIFTING IN A HURRY. DON'T BOTHER WITH THE AIRLOCK — JUST CRACK BOTH HATCHES.
JUST ALLOW ME TIME TO SUIT UP.

GET ABOARD — AND DON'T DITCH YOUR SUITS TILL THE ATMOSPHERE HAS BEEN RECYCLED.
GROK PUT THE SHUTTLE INTO A FAST TAKE-OFF...
THERE GO THE REST OF THEM.

OFFICER, WHY DO WE CONTINUE SPACEWARD INSTEAD OF DOWN-CURVING TO THE CITY DOME?
BECAUSE I'M TAKING YOU TO THE SPACEWARPER, GLIZZGLOK.
ABOARDSHIP — GLIZZGLOK AND HONEST JOK WERE INSTALLED IN STASIS CABINETS . . .
THIS IS UNLAWFUL. I DEMAND MY RIGHT TO APPEAL IN COURT BEFORE DEPORTATION.
YOU CAN ALWAYS MAKE A FORMAL COMPLAINT — WHEN YOU COME ROUND IN A MONTH OR TWO.
NOW I FEEL BETTER. EVEN AN ASCOD-NINE SAURIAN CAN'T TRANSFORM HIMSELF OUT OF STASIS SUSPENSION.

GROK RESUMED HIS DUTY AS HEAD OF GLORYVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT . . .
INSPECTOR, A CALL FOR YOU FROM OFFICER ZERO ON THE SPACEWARPER.
PATCH HIM THROUGH.
PARTNER! WHEN DO I GET OUT OF HERE?
WHEN I AM SURE YOU ARE FULLY REGENERATED, PARTNER. SO BE PATIENT. ENJOY THE RELAXATION.



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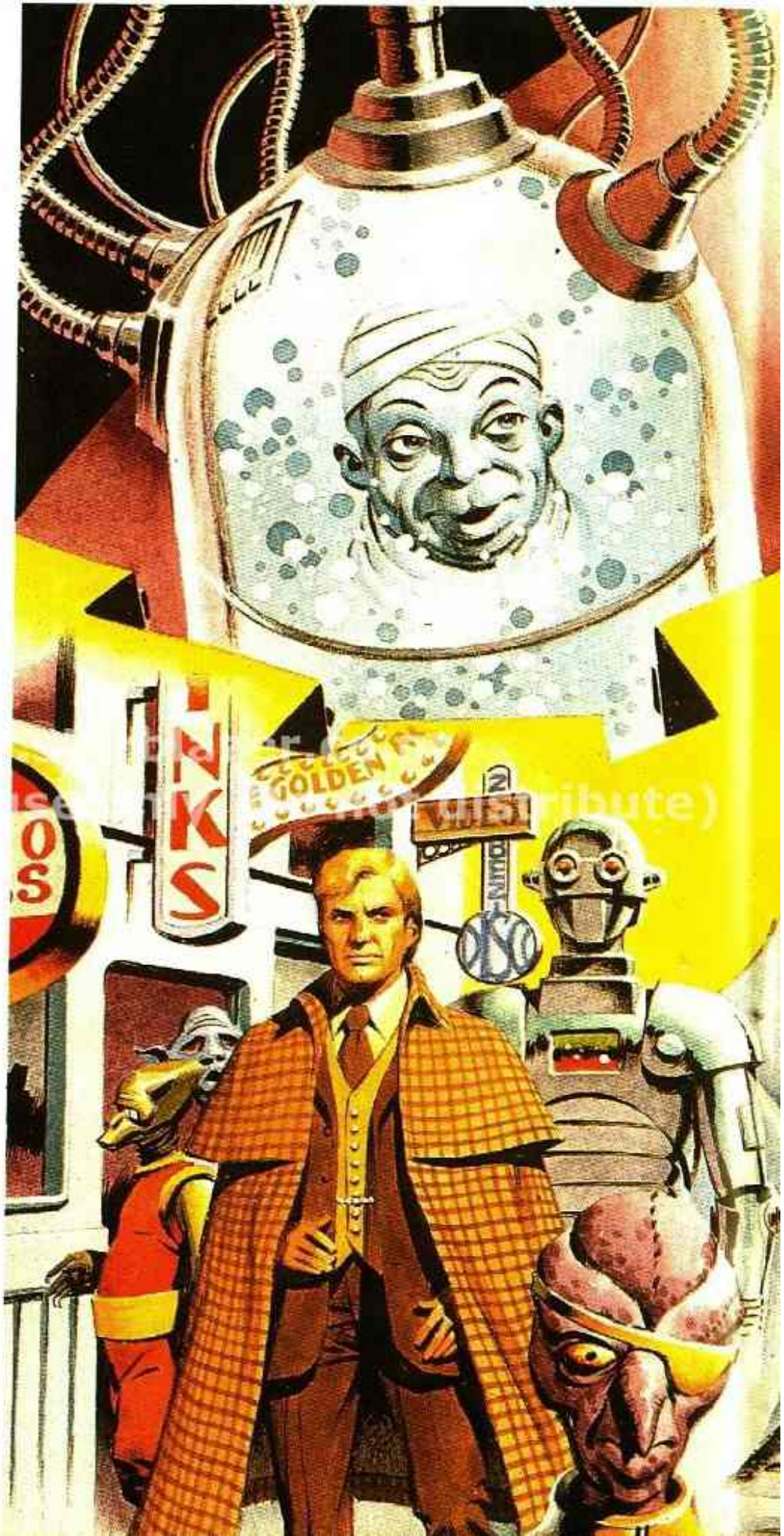
DON'T MISS

THIS MONTH'S OTHER ACTION-PACKED ADVENTURE

NOW ON SALE

DOUBLE TROUBLE

Grok was delighted when he received news of his promotion to detective. But this delight was short-lived because his bumbling partner, Zero was convinced detectives should dress and act like Sherlock Holmes. When the pair tangled with an alien who could change his shape, it was Grok who suffered, and thanks to a robot with homicidal tendencies, his suffering was about to become unbearable.